

SEPTEMBER 28, 2007.

DEAR CHAIRMAN FRANK AND RANKING MEMBER BACHUS: We, the Attorneys General of our respective States, have grave concerns about H.R. 2046, the "Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act of 2007." We believe that the bill would undermine States' traditional powers to make and enforce their own gambling laws.

On March 21, 2006, 49 NAAG members wrote to the leadership of Congress: We encourage the United States Congress to help combat the skirting of state gambling regulations by enacting legislation which would address Internet gambling, while at the same time ensuring that the authority to set overall gambling regulations and policy remains where it has traditionally been most effective: at the state level.

Congress responded by enacting the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 (UIGEA), which has effectively driven many illicit gambling operators from the American marketplace.

But now, less than a year later, H.R. 2046 proposes to do the opposite, by replacing state regulations with a federal licensing program that would permit Internet gambling companies to do business with U.S. customers. The Department of the Treasury would alone decide who would receive federal licenses and whether the licensees were complying with their terms. This would represent the first time in history that the federal government would be responsible for issuing gambling licenses.

A federal license would supersede any state enforcement action, because 5387 in H.R. 2046 would grant an affirmative defense against any prosecution or enforcement action under any Federal or State law to any person who possesses a valid license and complies with the requirements of H.R. 2046. This divestment of state gambling enforcement power is sweeping and unprecedented.

The bill would legalize Internet gambling in each State, unless the Governor clearly specifies existing state restrictions barring Internet gambling in whole or in part. On that basis, a State may "opt out" of legalization for all Internet gambling or certain types of gambling. However, the opt-out for types of gambling does not clearly preserve the right of States to place conditions on legal types of gambling. Thus, for example, if the State permits poker in licensed card rooms, but only between 10 a.m. and midnight, and the amount wagered cannot exceed \$100 per day and the participants must be 21 or older, the federal law might nevertheless allow 18-year-olds in that State to wager much larger amounts on poker around the clock.

Furthermore, the opt-outs may prove illusory. They will likely be challenged before the World Trade Organization. The World Trade Organization has already shown itself to be hostile to U.S. restrictions on Internet gambling. If it strikes down state opt-outs as unduly restrictive of trade, the way will be open to the greatest expansion of legalized gambling in American history and near total preemption of State laws restricting Internet gambling.

H.R. 2046 effectively nationalizes America's gambling laws on the Internet, "harmonizing" the law for the benefit of foreign gambling operations that were defying our laws for years, at least until UIGEA was enacted. We therefore oppose this proposal, and any other proposal that hinders the right of States to prohibit or regulate gambling by their residents.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS GANSLER,
Attorney General of
Maryland.
BILL MCCOLLUM,

Attorney General of
Florida.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY AND 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIV/AIDS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, today we celebrate National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, and the 25th anniversary of HIV/AIDS. Let us mark this day with a renewed spirit and effort to battle against this deadly virus.

HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects Latinos in this country, for while Latinos only represent 14 percent of the population of this country, 19 percent of those with HIV/AIDS are Latinos. 100,000 Latinos have died from this disease. We cannot continue to allow HIV/AIDS to ravage our communities.

Educating and reaching out to our children, family, and friends to address drug use, sexuality, and sexual activity should be our number one priority, because knowledge is the first step in successful prevention. The fact that these are topics that have been deemed unmentionable for generations is one of the reasons the epidemic of HIV/AIDS affects Latinos disproportionately; this is something that we must strive to change.

We must utilize our strengths to defeat this epidemic in our communities; we cannot allow silence and lack of information on this virus to be the cause of such tragic illness and death any longer.

Access to care is also a major issue for many Latinos. This week the House will be voting to override the President's veto of the Children's Health Insurance Program, legislation which will provide 10 million low-income children with health insurance. This access to health care will allow these children to begin and continue to live healthy lives.

For a person with HIV/AIDS, access health care is imperative. Many cannot obtain private insurance, are uninsured, or do not know how to apply for public insurance. This lack of insurance leads to less access to care, which further stymies the possibilities of successfully living with HIV/AIDS. I believe that access to appropriate and affordable health care is a basic human right, and while the passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP, will be a good first step, it is by no means the only step we need to take.

This has been a long, frustrating battle, and it is far from over. Today I join in solidarity with those who have suffered or watched a loved one suffer from HIV/AIDS. As I recommit myself to the fight against this virus I ask you to please join me.

TRIBUTE TO JUNIUS W. WILLIAMS,
ESQ.

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives

to join me as I rise to recognize and honor a good friend of my Congressional District and dedicated public servant, Junius Williams, Esq., a multi-faceted contributor to the community. Mr. Williams is being honored for his many years as a torch bearer in a variety of disciplines. Fortunately, for all of us in the Greater Newark Community, Mr. Williams has complete mastery of all these disciplines, which include academia, activism, Christianity, legal proficiency and mentorship.

In his role as an advocate for urban revitalization, Junius Williams served as the Director of Community Development and was at the helm of one of Newark's most significant projects, the Model Cities Program in the early 1970s. He also led the University Heights Neighborhood Urban Renewal Development Corporation. As a planner and developer, he had responsibility for the construction of over 1,200 housing units and accompanying amenities in Newark.

In 1978, Mr. Williams was elected as the youngest president of the National Bar Association. During his tenure as president, he presented a critique to the United Nations of the proposed constitution for the African nation of Zimbabwe. As an attorney, Mr. Williams was successful in representing Rev. Jesse Jackson in the historic court decision to bring single-lever voting to New Jersey, making it possible to cast one vote for the Presidential candidate and all of his delegates. He received his law degree from Yale University.

Mr. Williams has held other significant roles over the years including serving on the board of trustees for Essex County College, chairman of the Board of Education Law Center, chairing the board of trustees at Greater Abyssinian Baptist Church and serving as an official observer of the first South African National Elections in 1994. He is an accomplished musician, producer and performer. He currently serves as the director of the Abbott Leadership Institute, where he teaches parent advocacy skills to parents and professional educators at Rutgers University in Newark.

Madam Speaker, I am sure my colleagues agree that Junius Williams deserved to be feted at a celebration in his honor on Friday, October 12, 2007, for his many years of dedicated service to the community. I am proud to have him working in the 10th Congressional District and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING BINATIONAL HEALTH
WEEK COMMITTEE: COUNTIES OF
FRESNO, MERCED, TULARE AND
KERN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Madam, Speaker, I rise today to commend the Binational Health Week Committee for the Counties of Fresno, Merced, Tulare, and Kern upon their diligent work and commitment to bring Binational Health Week to their community.

Binational Health Week, BHW, began in 2001 with seven California cities, 98 activities, and 115 agencies involved. There were an estimated 18,720 people that were reached. This service has grown tremendously over the last